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BARRIE PARKES – A BRIEF SYNOPSIS



Barrie Parkes BEM - 31 March 1962

Barrie Parkes (full name Barrie Northend Parkes BEM) served in the Royal Air Force (RAF) from various locations in the United Kingdom, including a three-year voluntary tour of duty in North Africa as well as RAF Gan (Maldives), RAF Akrotiri (Cyprus) and RAF Gütersloh (Germany). Parkes was a commissioned officer in the Royal Air Force Police and worked in counter intelligence, counter terrorism and investigatory roles throughout his military career.

In the late sixties Parkes was part of the Royal Air Force counter intelligence team working under Air Commodore George Innes CBE (at that time a Squadron leader and later Provost Marshal of the Force) that hunted down and arrested a Royal Air Force serviceman whom, courtesy of a tip off from MI5 had discovered was offering information to the Soviet Intelligence Directorate.

The Royal Air Force serviceman was identified as Chief Technician Douglas Ronald Britten (born 1914, died February 1990), a Royal Air Force signals intelligence specialist serving at No. 399 Signals Squadron and also at a listening station in Cyprus (part of GCHQ). Britten was arrested on 13 September 1961, confessed to breaches of The Official Secrets Act and having worked with the Soviet Intelligence

was tried and convicted of espionage at the Old Bailey and was sentenced to 21 years' imprisonment.

Return to the 1976 Page. In 1976, Parkes was awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM, see letter below) in recognition of Northern Ireland; during and after his military service he was awarded several other commendations.

Get The Book. In 1977 Parkes established his own aviation security and investigatory business. The business was controlled by Parkes until just before his death in 2001. Over the years the business secured several conglomerates as clients including Boeing, General Electric, McDonnell Douglas, United Technologies and Bell Helicopter Textron.

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Social Links. Prior to leaving the Royal Air Force Police, Barrie Parkes was already well known to Alan Brooke Pemberton MBE who worked in British Intelligence. In 1978 Alan Pemberton introduced Barrie Parkes to Brian Dire, which was later to become a niche global intelligence agency. Parkes performed a pivotal role in Dire's activities for some 20 years until the late nineties.

On 11 September 2001 Barrie Parkes died of cancer in Hillingdon Middlesex England. His funeral was conducted by Padre Colin Hewitt, at that time the station Padre from RAF Uxbridge. The funeral was interrupted from the outset by some loud electronic feedback from the microphone being used by The Padre commented that if anyone needed proof of life after death, the funeral service was being given by other than Barrie Parkes.

Citations

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Cited 04 - Colin Hewitt describing his life as an RAF Padre. <http://trushare.com/47APR99/ap99n>

Cited 05 - articles about Douglas Ronald Britten's arrest, trial and imprisonment. <https://www.google.com/search?q=Douglas+Ronald+Britten&ie=utf-8&oe=utf-8&client=firefox-b>

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